



**Testimony of
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2015**

Good Day Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang and Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 985 AAC Barbershops and Apprenticeships**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

This bill would create an apprenticeship for barbers in the state. I am unable to support this bill as written although I am in favor a creating such an apprenticeship. However, it would require the Department of Public Health to establish the apprenticeship. DPH does not have the authority to establish such an apprenticeship program. The Department of Labor is the State Apprenticeship Agency approved by the Secretary of Labor for federal purposes.

The Department of Labor would be happy to work with DPH and proponents of the bill to assist in crafting language that would create the apprenticeship program under the auspices of the Department of Labor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.